

What is Claimed is:

Small

- 6a4 1. A method of providing information at the point of use of a window assembly comprising the steps of:
- providing masking material comprising a substrate and an adhesive disposed over a first face of the substrate;
 - applying at least one strip of masking material to a surface of a pane of the window assembly; and
 - printing information on a second face of the substrate of the at least one strip of masking material.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of printing information on the second face of the substrate of the at least one strip of masking material occurs before the step of applying the at least one strip of masking material to the surface of the pane.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of printing information on the second face of the substrate of the at least one strip of masking material occurs after the step of applying the at least one strip of masking material to the surface of the pane.

4. A method of providing information at the point of use of a window assembly comprising the steps of:
- providing masking material comprising a substrate and a first adhesive disposed upon a first face of the substrate;

applying at least one strip of masking material to a surface of a pane of the window assembly; and

applying an information bearing sheet over the at least one strip of masking material.

5 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the information bearing sheet comprises a sheetstock and a second adhesive disposed upon a first face of the sheetstock.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the second adhesive has substantially greater adhesion than the first adhesive.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the sheetstock comprises a substantially frangible material.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the sheetstock comprises paper.

9. A window assembly, comprising:

an insulating glass unit including a first pane having a first surface;

a protective covering disposed over a masked portion of the first surface of the first pane;

the protective covering comprising a plurality of strips disposed across the first surface of

20 the first pane; and

the first surface of the first pane having an unmasked apron extending between an outer periphery of the protective covering and an outer periphery of the first pane.

10. The window assembly of claim 9, wherein the plurality of strips are disposed in a sequentially overlapping fashion with each subsequent strip overlapping a portion of a preceding strip so that the protective covering can be easily removed one strip at a time.

5 11. The window assembly of claim 10, wherein the plurality of strips comprises a second strip partially overlapping a first strip, and a third strip partially overlapping the second strip.

12. The window assembly of claim 10, wherein the plurality of strips comprises n strips with the nth strip partially overlapping an (n-1) strip of the plurality of protective strips.

13. The window assembly of claim 12, wherein the nth strip includes indicia for indicating that the nth strip should be the first one removed.

14. The window assembly of claim 9, further including an information bearing sheet overlaying the protective covering.

15. The window assembly of claim 14, wherein the information bearing sheet comprises a sheetstock having a first side and a second side.

16. The window assembly of claim 14, wherein the information bearing sheet includes second indicia printed on a second side thereof.

17. The window assembly of claim 14, wherein the information bearing sheet includes first indicia printed on a first side thereof.

18. The window assembly of claim 17, wherein the information bearing sheet includes a second adhesive overlaying the first indicia and the first side of the sheetstock.

19. The window assembly of claim 18, wherein the second adhesive has substantially greater adhesion than the first adhesive.

20. The window assembly of claim 18, wherein the second adhesive and the protective covering are both substantially transparent to allow viewing of the first indicia therethrough.

21. The window assembly of claim 18, wherein the second adhesive and the protective covering are both substantially translucent.

22. The window assembly of claim 14, wherein the information bearing sheet includes indicia comprising an advertisement for goods likely to be purchased by a user of the window assembly.

23. The window assembly of claim 14, wherein the information bearing sheet includes indicia comprising a National Fenestration Rating Council rating for the window assembly.

24. The window assembly of claim 9, wherein each strip of the protective covering includes a tab portion.

5 25. The window assembly of claim 24, wherein each strip of the protective covering comprises a substrate and an adhesive disposed over a first face of the substrate, and the tab portion of each strip comprises a first portion of the substrate folded so as to overlap a second portion of the substrate so that the adhesive overlaying the first portion is adhered to the adhesive overlaying the second portion.

26. A method of protecting a masked area of a planar surface comprising the steps of:
providing masking material having a width;
providing the width of the masking material to a masking calculator;
providing a desired width of the masked area to the masking calculator;
instructing the masking calculator to determine an optimal number of strips;
instructing the masking calculator to calculate an overlap dimension; and
applying the optimal number of strips to the planar surface in an overlapping fashion according to the overlap dimension.

20 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the strips are applied in a sequential fashion with each subsequent strip partially overlapping a preceding strip by the overlap dimension.

